

Existing brass products already installed do not need to be replaced

Systems have until August 31, 2005 to use up non-ANSI/NSF 61 fittings

DEQ is allowing public water systems to use up their existing stock of non-certified brass fittings, but this allowance will expire on August 31, 2005. After this date, all new water works brass must be ANSI/NSF 61 certified.

Please note that this is a requirement for new construction only - existing brass products that are already installed do not need to be replaced.

The *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems* require that materials which are used to construct public drinking water systems and which have water contact surfaces must comply with ANSI/NSF standard 61. ***Exceptions to this requirement must be approved by DEQ.***

In 2003 DEQ started enforcing this requirement for water meters. In 2004, enforcement was expanded to include water works brass, including valves, curb stops, components in meter setters, and other drinking water related products.

Products which are certified help to reduce the amount of lead and other contaminants that leach into drinking water. Lead is the primary contaminant of concern in water works brass.

Exposure to low levels of lead over an extended period of time can have severe health effects. Too much lead can damage a person's brain, kidneys, nervous system, and red blood cells. Those at greatest risk, even with short-term exposures, are young children and pregnant women.

Products are certified by laboratories which are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). You can search for certified products at the following web addresses:

<http://www.ul.com/water/waterqry.htm>

<http://www.nsf.org/Certified/PwsComponents/>

http://www.truesdail.com/product_certification/listings.html

If you have questions, contact your local regional Department of Environmental Quality office. ■

■ According to the *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems* . . .

Section 550.02 of the *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems* (IDAPA 58.01.08) outlines the standards for materials used in public drinking water systems:

"Materials. Materials which are used to construct public drinking water systems and which have water contact surfaces must comply with applicable AWWA standards and ANSI/NSF standard 61 or NSF standard 53 or 58, unless otherwise approved by the Department on a site specific basis. Corrosion control shall be taken into account during all aspects of public water system design."

Interested in a DEQ Grant or Loan?

During State Fiscal Year 2006, DEQ will award a limited number of planning grants and loans to eligible public drinking water systems to help them plan, design, and construct drinking water facilities. The State Fiscal Year 2006 starts July 1, 2005.

The purpose of this assistance program is to help communities identify system problems, determine how to correct them, and complete construction.

All community and nonprofit noncommunity water systems are qualified to receive grants and loans, but they must be in the fundable range of the Fiscal Year 2006 priority list to do this.

Qualified public water systems can get on the 2006 list by completing grant and loan Letter of Interest (LOI)

see **Grant/Loan**, page 2

forms. DEQ will mail these forms to all qualified systems during the first week of February of 2005.

We urge you to provide the information requested in the LOI forms and to return them by the 30-day deadline. A return envelope will be provided.

DEQ staff engineers, in our six regional offices around the state, will rate and rank projects based on public health and "readiness to proceed" criteria.

DEQ will begin awarding grant and loans in July of 2005. Highest rated projects will be invited to apply first. Assistance will be awarded until funding resources are exhausted. ■

Drinking water/wastewater professional license renewal dates are changing

The expiration date for personal drinking water and wastewater professional licenses issued by the Idaho Bureau of Licenses (IBOL) will change soon. The new expiration date will correspond to the birth date of each licensee.

If you have a license that expires on March 1, 2005, the Bureau will begin the transition to your new expiration date during the upcoming renewal period.

A renewal notice will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks before March 1. The renewal fee will be pro-rated based on your birth date.

Continuing education cycles will also be transitioned to reflect the new renewal dates. Click on <https://www.ibol.idaho.gov/bol%20renewal%20dates3.htm> for additional information.

Additional questions about the new renewal dates and the transition process may be e-mailed to the Bureau at wwp@ibol.idaho.gov. ■

■ If your license expires on March 2005, you must renew before March 1

Licenses that are not renewed before March 1 will be canceled. In order to reinstate a canceled license, a reinstatement fee (\$25), in addition to the renewal fee, will be required. The reinstatement fee is required by Idaho law . . . and cannot be waived.

Got Arsenic?

Arsenic Removal Workshop coming in March

Water systems that are interested in learning more about the revised Arsenic Rule and available treatment options should plan to attend an Arsenic Removal Workshop on March 9, 2005, at Boise's Centre on the Grove.

The Idaho DEQ, Idaho Rural Water Association, and local chapters of the American Water Works Association are sponsoring the free March 9 workshop. The workshop is intended for consultants and those systems that expect to exceed the 10 parts per billion (ppb) arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL).

The revised MCL of 10 ppb takes effect for community and non-community non-transient water systems on January 23, 2006, which is less than a year away.

The workshop is free and seating is limited, so **call 208-343-7001 by February 25, 2005**, and specify that you want to attend the **Arsenic Removal Workshop**.

Please note that registration for the Idaho Rural Water Association 2005 Conference Central being held March 7-9 at the Centre on the Grove is separate from registration for the Arsenic Removal Workshop.

You can find the agenda and more information on the arsenic workshop by going to either the Idaho Rural Water Association's web site at <http://www.idahoruralwater.com/index3.htm> or Idaho DEQ's web site at http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/assist_business/workshops/arsenic_removal_workshop.cfm ■

■ State legislature passes new Arsenic Rule

Both houses of the Idaho State Legislature have passed the revised Arsenic Rule, which sets the arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) at 10 parts per billion (ppb). The MCL is a national standard whether Idaho adopts the rule or not.

Since Idaho adopted the rule, however, the Idaho DEQ will oversee the rule implementation in the state rather than EPA, which gives Idaho greater flexibility to assist systems with compliance.

■ Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For general information on drinking water, contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You can also contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.

Recent EPA memo gives Lead/Copper Rule clarification

EPA released a guidance memorandum on November 23, 2004, concerning sampling and the calculation of 90th percentile values for the Lead and Copper Rule.

The results of a 2004 national review of state implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule indicated to EPA that there is some inconsistency in how utilities and states are carrying out the regulation.

Below are responses from the November 23 memorandum to frequently asked questions about the Lead/Copper Rule sampling and 90th percentile requirements. (These answers are actually summaries of EPA's earlier full responses to the questions.) Systems interested in the complete answers are referred to the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/leadcopperrule.



Which samples are used to calculate the 90th percentile?

The November 23 memo indicates that results from all samples that are part of a system's targeted sampling pool (sites with the greatest potential for lead leaching) must be used for the calculation of the 90th percentile.

What should utilities do with sample results from customer-requested sampling programs?

The memo indicates that samples taken at the request of the homeowners to test for lead should not be used to calculate the 90th percentile, except in cases where the system is reasonably able to determine that the site selection criteria for compliance sampling are satisfied.

What should states do with samples taken outside of the sampling compliance period?

According to the memo, only those samples collected during the compliance monitoring period may be included in the 90th percentile calculation. However, samples collected outside the sampling compliance period must still be provided to the state.

What should states do to calculate compliance if the minimum number of samples are not collected?

States must calculate the 90th percentile even if the minimum number of samples are not collected. In turn, however, a system which fails to collect the minimum required number of samples incurs a monitoring and reporting violation and is thus required to conduct a Tier 3 Public Notification. Systems classified as "community water systems" will also have to report the violation in their Consumer Confidence Report.

What is a proper sample?

The memo restates that the rule defines a proper sample as a "first draw sample," 1 liter in volume, that is taken after water has been standing in plumbing for at least six hours, and from an interior tap typically used for consumption - cold water kitchen or bathroom sink taps in residences. There is no outer limit on standing time.

How can utilities avoid problems with sample collection?

The memo recommends steps utilities can take to avoid analysis of improper samples (see EPA web site below for details).

On what grounds may a sample be invalidated?

EPA reiterates the criteria that allow a sample result to be invalidated and makes the point that sample results cannot be invalidated based on homeowner sampling error.

If you would like a copy of the complete memo, please contact your regional DEQ office or you can find it on the Internet at: www.epa.gov/leadcopperrule. ■

T R A I N I N G	
Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
<i>Water System Administration (IRWA)</i>	<i>Idaho Falls, Feb 8</i>
<i>Microsoft Office 1: Word & Excel (IRWA)</i>	<i>Idaho Falls, Feb 9</i>
<i>Hands-on Pumps & Motors (BE)</i>	<i>Worley, Feb 9</i>
<i>VSWWS Certification Review (BE)</i>	<i>Idaho Falls, Feb 12</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Idaho Falls, Feb 14</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Chubbuck, Feb 15</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Twin Falls, Feb 16</i>
<i>Lab I Certification Review (BE)</i>	<i>Weiser, Feb 16</i>
<i>Cross Connection Identification (BE)</i>	<i>Boise, Feb 17</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Boise, Feb 17</i>
<i>Water I&II Certification Review (BE)</i>	<i>Boise, Feb 22-23</i>
<i>Water System Administration (IRWA)</i>	<i>Chubbuck, Feb 23</i>
<i>Microsoft Office 1: Word & Excel (IRWA)</i>	<i>Chubbuck, Feb 24</i>
<i>Management Water Systems (BE)</i>	<i>Boise, Feb 24</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Lewiston, Feb 28</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Coeur d'Alene, Mar 1</i>
<i>Idaho Pump School (IRWA)</i>	<i>Sandpoint, Mar 2</i>
<i>Water III&IV (BE)</i>	<i>Twin Falls, Mar 1-2</i>

S C H E D U L E	
Class/Sponsor	Location/Date
<i>Cross Connection Identification (BE)</i>	<i>Idaho Falls, Mar 3</i>
<i>Idaho Rural Water Association 2005 Conference</i>	<i>Boise, Mar 7-9</i>
<i>Water I&II Certification Review (BE)</i>	<i>Caldwell, Mar 8-9</i>
<i>Arsenic Removal Workshop (see * below)</i>	<i>Boise, Mar 9</i>
<i>Small Water O&M (BE)</i>	<i>Sandpoint, Mar 10</i>
<i>Groundwater/Source Water Protection (IRWA)</i>	<i>Rexburg, Mar 22</i>
<i>Groundwater/Source Water Protection (IRWA)</i>	<i>Blackfoot, Mar 23</i>
<i>Groundwater/Source Water Protection (IRWA)</i>	<i>Arco, Mar 24</i>
<i>Water System Administration (IRWA)</i>	<i>Twin Falls, Mar 29</i>
<i>Microsoft Office 1: Word & Excel (IRWA)</i>	<i>Twin Falls, Mar 30</i>
For further information, contact the following: (BE) = Brown Environmental, Inc. 1-800-543-4358 or for the Boise area, 1-208-465-5725. Web site: www.idahooperatortraining.com . (IRWA) = Idaho Rural Water Association, 1-800-962-3257 or 1-208-343-7001. Fax: 1-208-343-1866. E-mail: irwa@idahoruralwater.com . Web site: www.idahoruralwater.com/index2.htm . * Sponsored by Idaho DEQ, IRWA, & American Water Works Association. For information, call 208-343-7001.	

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